(c) whether it is a fact that these agencies earn a fortune through business of human beings, particularly minor and young rural girls?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) To safeguard the interest of job-seekers, Ministry of Labour & Employment have issued guidelines to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to consider regulation of the functioning of Private Placement Agencies, as per local needs.

**Increase of unemployment in rural and urban areas**

†1732. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of unemployed persons in the country have increased in the year 2004 in comparison to the year, 2003;

(b) if so, the respective increase in the rural and urban areas; and

(c) the individual number of unemployed persons in urban and rural areas during, 2003 and 2004?

THE MINISTER OF LABOURED EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) Esjjf^iies of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Latest survey for which results are available pertains to the year 1999-2000. Unemployment in rural and urban areas during 1993-94 and 1999-2000 are given below:

| | Unemployed (In Millions) | |
|---|---|---|
| | 1993-94 | 1999-2000 |
| Rural | 3.35 | 4.39 |
| Urban | 4.12 | 4.66 |
| TOTAL* | 7.50 | 9.00 |

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.
*Totals may not tally due to rounding off.